

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
6/1/08 – 6/14/08**

DISTRICT 1

CO Jason Wicklund checked anglers leaving a local access site who said they had each caught their limit of bluegills. A count of the fish in the buckets revealed that they were eight bluegills over their limit. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jason Wicklund and Chris Holmes contacted the operator of an unregistered pontoon boat. Further investigation revealed that the vessel had several marine violations and the driver of the boat was intoxicated. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Wicklund contacted anglers with an expired registration on their vessel and found several undersized walleyes. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Wicklund encountered an ORV operating on the highway late at night. When the CO activated his emergency lights, the ORV fled and led the CO on a 10 mile pursuit through the woods. Eventually the ORV became hung up on fallen trees and the CO apprehended the operator after a brief foot pursuit. CO Wicklund identified the individual as the same person he arrested six days earlier for operating an ORV while intoxicated and driving while license suspended. The operator was once again arrested and lodged on felony charges.

CO Chris Holmes assisted the Michigan State Police (MSP) with a breaking and entering investigation of a local sportsman's club. During the investigation Officer Holmes discovered old deer and turkey parts at the subject's residence. Officer Holmes found that the subject had never purchased a Michigan hunting license. After a lengthy interview Officer Holmes obtained a written confession. The subject had killed the turkey during closed season, over bait and had killed the deer at night. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon observed a subject fishing on a small lake and when he approached with his patrol truck, the subject walked away from the fishing pole and denied fishing. CO Bacon explained how he observed the subject fishing and enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman was checking anglers along the shoreline of Kawbawgam Lake and observed two anglers in a boat shooting at turtles with a slingshot. The subjects then chased down a muskrat while shooting at it with the slingshot. They were then observed shooting the slingshot at a person fishing along the shoreline. The subjects were contacted at the launch site and enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman checked a group of anglers on Strawberry Lake. After watching them for some time, he observed them fishing illegally with prohibited live bait and

smoking marijuana. When contact was made, the violations included possession of a short fish, no fishing license, possession of marijuana, and possession of live bait. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 2

CO Kelly Nightlinger assisted the MSP and Mackinac County Sheriff's Department with a fatal tree cutting accident. The top of the tree the individual was cutting broke free and struck the individual.

DISTRICT 3

COs Mike Feagan and Craig Milkowski responded to a complaint regarding a dead sturgeon in the Cheboygan River. The sturgeon had a large cut in the middle of the body. The sturgeon was severely decayed and was pulled up on the shore. Additional complaints concerning dead sturgeon are being investigated by Fisheries Division personnel.

COs Mike Feagan and Craig Milkowski responded to a complaint of a subject dumping debris off his boat in Burt Lake. A description of the subject's house and boat were obtained, along with GPS coordinates. The subject was contacted and it was learned he had dumped brush to make a fish structure.

CO Bill Webster stopped one angler on Fletchers Pond who had caught and kept several bluegills and sunfish. The angler explained that a fishing license was not needed for panfish, only for the larger predatory fish. The angler also stated that he bought a license every year, but had not purchased one this year. A check of the retail sales system revealed that he had not purchased a fishing license since 2001. A ticket for fishing without a license was issued.

DISTRICT 4

CO Mike Wells responded to a complaint of a subject on the Muskegon River keeping undersized trout. CO Wells located and observed the subject catch a short trout and place it on a stringer. The subject also had a second short fish on the same stringer and five additional trout were found at the subject's car. Five of the seven trout were undersized. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Bomay was on a boat patrol in Mecosta County and checked a group of anglers who were fishing. The operator of the boat became agitated when CO Bomay asked to look in his live well. He stated that he had a few large bass and a 28 inch pike. CO Bomay looked into the live well and found two undersized bass and the pike which was only 20 inches. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Bomay responded to the Newaygo State Park where a subject was lighting illegal fireworks. The subject was wanted on multiple warrants and a DNR warrant for an uncased gun. He was arrested and lodged in jail.

COs assisted Ludington State Park personnel after excessive rain runoff created potentially dangerous conditions involving the Hamlin Dam. CO Jim Espinoza was assisted by a Sheriff's Deputy with recovering several boats in danger of ramming the dam after drifting free of their moorings.

CO Steve Converse followed a fresh trail of beer cans and tire marks along Manistee County roads to a vehicle occupied by six minors. The minors tossed their remaining beer when they saw the CO. A check of the occupants also revealed that one individual was in possession of marijuana. Several tickets were issued for the violations.

COs Sam Koscinski and Jair Kollasch patrolled the Big Manistee River following the storm that caused massive flooding. The COs assisted numerous canoeists and kayakers who had flipped their vessels and were swept into log jams or had been swept downstream.

DISTRICT 5

CO Warren MacNeill responded to a complaint of wildfire. His investigation led him to an individual who was firing incendiary rounds from a rifle into the area where the fire started. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Lockwood responded to a complaint from an angler of a woman beating geese to death with a club. CO Lockwood contacted the subject and found evidence supporting the complaint, but she denied the accusations. CO Lockwood observed smoke coming from the woodstove on the very hot and humid day. CO Lockwood then obtained permission to check the woodstove and found a dead gosling inside. The subject then confessed to killing the goose and trying to burn the carcass to hide the evidence. A ticket was issued.

CO Brian Olsen and Sgt. Glenn Gutierrez assisted Emergency Management and local law enforcement with search and rescue and traffic control after a tornado went through downtown West Branch causing mild destruction of buildings, trees, and power lines.

DISTRICT 6

While checking boats on the Saginaw River, CO Holly Pennoni encountered two anglers who were from out of town and had been there for three days. They had almost 100 catfish over their limit. Both subjects were ticketed.

CO Jason Smith received a complaint of a subject shooting an illegal deer. Upon arriving on scene, he contacted the individual who admitted to shooting the deer on his

own private property and didn't think it was a big deal. CO Smith seized his firearm and deer and issued him a ticket.

CO Jeremy Payne and Sgt. Ron Kimmerly watched a large group of subjects floating down the Chippewa River on tubes. The group stopped along a sandy area and began throwing their beer cans and other litter into the grass and water. After the group left the bank and all their trash, the COs ordered them back to shore. Tickets were issued for litter.

CO Jay Person received a call from a concerned citizen regarding a truck and trailer entering state land with a trailer full of debris. The truck left with the trailer empty and the concerned citizen following. The complainant obtained a vehicle plate number and passed it on to the CO. The plate came back to a subject who advised that his son was using the truck and trailer. The son called later and made arrangements to clean the area. The subject also paid a \$300 fine.

CO Dan Lee was using radar on the Saginaw River when he clocked a vessel at almost 70 miles per hour. The speed limit on inland waters is 55 miles per hour. CO Lee found that the vessel operator was also short on personal flotation devices (PFDs) and did not have a fire extinguisher on board. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 7

CO Chuck Towns received a complaint from a citizen who witnessed a subject shoot a turkey several times with a .22 rifle during the closed season. CO Towns met with the subject at his residence and found the turkey in the oven and in the process of being cooked. CO Towns seized the baking bird, a .22 rifle, and obtained a confession to the kill made during the closed season with an illegal firearm. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Chuck Towns, Mike Mshar and Patrick McManus assisted the Allegan County Sheriff's Department with the search and recovery of a drowning victim who had attempted to swim across the river channel in Saugatuck.

CO Mike Mshar checked an angler on a lake in Allegan County, and when the subject began behaving suspiciously, CO Mshar followed him to his vehicle. After several denials of having any fish in his possession, CO Mshar observed a "boom box" in the vehicle. Further inspection revealed that the "boom box" was also a cooler which contained two undersized bass for which the owner was issued a ticket.

CO Zach Doss attended a final pretrial on a subject charged with an illegal deer, trespassing and buying a hunting license when not eligible. The subject pled guilty to trespassing and the license infraction with the illegal deer charge was dismissed. The court also ordered the subject to forfeit his firearm.

COs Greg Patten and Chris Simpson assisted the Muskegon County Sheriff's

Department with an ORV personal injury accident. The COs located the injured rider and assisted medical crews with the rescue.

CO Ken Cerny responded to a complaint of a Canada goose being shot near a river. CO Cerny contacted an individual at a nearby residence who admitted to shooting but claimed he shot at a woodchuck on his lawn. The general direction of his shot was toward where the goose had been hit. The subject did not have a small game license and was hunting from an elevated platform. The subject was issued a ticket for the violation.

CO Mike McGee and Sgt. Bob Torres were patrolling the St. Joseph River when they observed a boater in distress. COs responded and found one subject in the water near a vessel that was having motor trouble. The vessel operator advised that his boat would not start and his girlfriend had injured her leg and could not get back into the boat. The COs assisted the woman into the patrol boat and towed the stranded vessel to a nearby boat launch.

DISTRICT 8

CO Rick Villerot responded to a dog bite at Hayes State Park. He administered first aid to the victim and assisted park staff in dealing with the subject.

CO Jason Smith assisted MSP Troopers with a barricaded gunman situation. The subject was subsequently arrested.

DISTRICT 9

COs Danny Walzak, Lacelle Rabon, Mark Ennett, Kris Kiel, Ben Shively, Brandon Kieft, and Sgt. Arthur Green conducted a group patrol targeting overlimits of fish and recreational trespass. Seventeen tickets were issued for taking overlimits of white bass and recreational trespass.

During a joint patrol, COs Kris Kiel and Todd Szyska wrote a ticket to the operator of a small fishing boat who was in rough water and had no life jackets. The COs also issued a ticket to an angler trolling in Lake St. Clair with three lines. The same subject received a ticket two weeks prior for fishing with four lines.

While checking anglers, COs Todd Szyska and Kris Kiel found two subjects in possession of 14 bass out of season, hidden in a cooler. Enforcement action was taken, and restitution is being requested.

COs Lacelle Rabon and Danny Walzak, along with Sgt. Arthur Green, responded to a RAP complaint of anglers taking overlimits of white bass. A check of four subjects led to tickets being issued for taking overlimits of white bass and confiscation of 414 fish. One of the subjects had hidden several of the fish inside a pair of pants placed in a trash can. The subject had a bed sheet containing fish in his vehicle, which was so

heavy it took two people to remove it. In addition, the subject had two 40 gallon plastic bags full of fish in the vehicle.

CO Mark Ennett responded to reports of people taking overlimits of white bass at the Elizabeth Park Boat ramp. Anglers in three boats lined up at the access site had over limits of white bass. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Todd Szyska was checking anglers when he observed one angler acting overly anxious. After searching the area, CO Szyska found a stringer with two largemouth bass. The subject admitted to catching both fish and was issued a ticket for taking largemouth bass out of season.

While checking anglers, CO Lacelle Rabon contacted two subjects who had 17 smallmouth bass in their possession. The bass were seized and both anglers were issued tickets for taking smallmouth bass out of season, with restitution to be requested.

CO Brandon Kieft issued a ticket to a subject for taking Canada goose out of season and assisted sheriff's deputies with another goose complaint. One subject shot a goose with a pellet gun and the other shot a goose with a BB gun.

CO Ken Kovach was on marine patrol when a citizen came over the county radio and said a marine deputy on the same lake was unconscious in the water. CO Kovach responded to find other boaters who had pulled the marine deputy onto a pontoon boat. CO Kovach called for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and treated the deputy for shock and a deep laceration on his arm from the prop of his patrol boat. Witnesses stated the deputy was turning his boat which caught the wake of another boat, throwing him into the water.

CO Ken Kovach responded to a trapping complaint and located a 220 conibear trap without any tags. The complainant provided enough information for CO Kovach to locate the trapper, who was trapping out of season and trespassing. Enforcement action taken.

COs Gerard Goulette and Ken Kovach were checking anglers and found two subjects with numerous bluegills in a bucket. As the COs were counting the fish, a 10 inch largemouth bass rolled up to the top. Enforcement action taken.